

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

By Ingram & Mills.



"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1838.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

FOR GOVERNOR:
GEN. DAVID R. PORTER,
(OF HUNTINGDON COUNTY.)

Democratic Nomination.

The 5th of March Democratic State Convention closed their labors on Tuesday last. Every County in the State was fully represented; and on the second ballot Gen. DAVID R. PORTER, of Huntingdon county, was nominated as the candidate of the democratic party for Governor, having received 86 votes of the 133 delegates in attendance. A resolution was unanimously adopted pledging the individual exertions of each member of the Convention to promote the election of the nominee; and a spirit of harmony and good feeling plainly indicated that all were gratified with the result, notwithstanding they had lost the nomination of their personal favorites. Gen. PORTER is at present a member of the state Senate—has uniformly supported the measures and candidates of the democratic party—possesses talents of a superior order—is most popular where best known—and will undoubtedly take the place of the present incumbent in December next. We have raised his name to our mast's head, where it shall remain during our control over the "Columbia Democrat;" and the democracy of Pennsylvania may rejoice in the nomination of so pure and popular a democratic republican as their candidate.

The Antimasonic Conservative Bank party have re-nominated Mr. Ritner as their candidate for Governor, and recommended Gen. Harrison for the Presidency. This is all well enough for form's sake; but what an immense trouble and expense must this amalgamated trio of party jugglers sustain merely to find themselves woefully defeated in October next. He must be blind indeed, who cannot see the power and determination of the democratic party of Pennsylvania: They will rout the present dynasty and secure the election of such candidate as will once more put the Commonwealth's matters in good order.

The Bank Bill.

This bill, the provisions of which we noticed a fortnight since, passed a final reading in the House of Representatives on the 2d inst. by a vote of 56 to 40. No decisive action has been had upon it in the Senate, but its defeat there is a matter beyond all doubt.

On the 2d inst. in the Senate, Mr. McCenkey offered sundry resolutions in relation to banks. The first, requiring the banks to resume specie payments was negatived by a vote of 20 to 13. When the second resolution, making the stockholders personally responsible, was under consideration, Mr. Pearson wished the vote taken immediately—he wished to see who dare vote in favor of it—and concluded his remarks by saying that he would have no more confidence in a senator that would vote for it, than he would have in a horse thief!! Truly, he is a bravo! "Riding on a rail" would cool such a fellow's temper.

The Berwick "Sentinel" has passed into the hands of Mr. LEVI L. TATE, who promises to advocate the principles and measures of the Democratic Party. We wish him success.

In our next number we shall publish the *New Constitution*, as amended by the Reform Convention, and which will be submitted to the people of Pennsylvania for adoption or rejection at the next election. An interesting address of the democratic members of the Convention will be found in a preceding column.

The Murder Case.

The Hon. John Fairfield, of Maine, has introduced a series of resolutions in Congress, calling for the appointment of a select committee to investigate the causes which led to the murder of his colleague, the late Jonathan Cilley. The Resolutions passed by a vote 152 to 49; and the committee have power to send for persons and papers. Mr. Fairfield addressed the House in an eloquent speech, in which it is said he made Wise, of Virginia, the prime mover in the duel, turn pale as death, and quake like an aspen leaf. We hope the committee may perform their duty faithfully; and in doing so, they will undoubtedly put upon Graves, Wise, and Webb, that reproach and punishment which they deserve as principal and accessories in the perpetration of an atrocious and cold-blooded murder.

Several papers, of all parties, are urging upon the authorities of Maryland the immediate arrest of Graves, Wise and Webb, for the atrocious murder of Mr. Cilley. The public voice cries aloud for justice; and we see no better mode of securing it than by the trial of this trio, through whose joint means the outrage was perpetrated.

THE MARKETS.—Flour is selling in Philadelphia at \$7 50; in Baltimore at \$8. 25,000 bushels of Foreign Wheat were sold in Baltimore on the 2d inst. at \$1 62 per bushel.

The select committee appointed in the House of Representatives to inquire into the causes which led to the death of Mr. Cilley, are Mr. Toucey, of Connecticut, Mr. Porter, of Pennsylvania, Mr. Grennell, of Massachusetts, Mr. Ellmore, of South Carolina, Mr. Drayner, of New York, Mr. Grantland, of Georgia, and Mr. Hariden, of Indiana.

"Take time by the forelock."

DELINQUENT SUBSCRIBERS will bear in mind that unless they discharge their dues prior to the publication of number 52, (which will be in a few weeks,) that \$2 60 will be strictly exacted in accordance with our published terms. Those at a distance can remit current ship-plasters by mail.

THE CONVENTION.

We congratulate the Democracy of Pa. upon the harmony which characterized the proceedings of the convention. Every county in the state was fully represented, and every delegate seemed deeply impressed with the high importance of the trust committed to his charge. All hearts were bent upon the holy purpose of rescuing our beloved Pennsylvania from the misrule of the faction which now predominates in the Executive Department of the Commonwealth, and from the determined spirit manifested upon this occasion, there can scarcely be the shadow of a doubt that that purpose will be accomplished in October next. Never did a convention assemble in a better spirit, and never did a convention close the principal business for which it was convened with greater harmony and unity of feeling. Disappointments in personal preferences were obliterated by the conviction that victory was about to perch upon the Democratic banner, and that act of the convention would be sanctioned and approved by the free and untrammelled yeomanry of this good old Commonwealth. Let every democrat who values his principles and is sincerely attached to the republican institutions which protect his rights and secure his liberties, put his shoulder to the wheel, and victory is ours.—*Pa. Reporter.*

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION.

This day we have the pleasure of presenting to our democratic friends, the name of Gen. DAVID R. PORTER, of Huntingdon county, as the candidate for Governor, put in nomination, with great unanimity, by the Democratic Convention. This body was entirely full, and comprised among its members many of the most respectable and influential democrats in the state; it assembled under very favorable auspices—conducted its proceedings in a most commendable spirit of patriotic unity of feeling—and its work, we doubt not, will be cordially approved by every honest democrat in the state. By reference to its proceedings, it will be seen, that a number of distinguished and excellent democrats, were named as candidates for nomination—each, and all of whom, were eminently worthy of the honor—but of the whole number, we risk nothing in saying, Gen. Porter is in every respect second to none, in his title to the confidence and distinction, by which he has been honored.

He is a native of Montgomery county—a son of a soldier of the revolution—a most consistent and unwavering democrat—a man of superior talents—highly cultivated mind—thoroughly acquainted with all the great interests of the people—and of much experience in legislation. He is a practical farmer residing in the centre of the state, and has a most comprehensive acquaintance with all its interests and resources in every section. His honesty and honor are without stain or reproach, and his personal popularity unbounded, as his recent election to the senate, in a district strongly opposed to him in politics, abundantly proves.

Such is the man, presented to the people of Pennsylvania by the democratic convention, as a competitor of Joseph Ritner. The result is not, for an instant doubtful. The melancholy visages of the Ritner men, and the low abuse heaped upon Gen. Porter by Cox and others in their convention, give full earnest of their desperation. "The avenging hour has come," and Gov. Ritner with the sins and follies of his administration off his head, must speedily sink into disgrace and contempt.—*Keystone.*

RAIL ROAD CONVENTION.

A railroad Convention consisting of about 300 delegates, from the different counties of this state, and from several of the bordering counties in Ohio, is now in session here. We notice among its members, a number of distinguished champions of the Internal Improvement system of Pennsylvania:—The Hon. Robert T. Conrad, of Philadelphia, is President, assisted by six Vice Presidents and Secretaries.—*Id.*

There are three things with which a man should keep on terms—his Wife, his Stomach, and his Conscience.

An Old Bachelor is the most miserable animal on earth.

Religious Notice.

THE Episcopal Church in Bloomsburg, will be open for Divine Service, on Sunday the 18th inst., notwithstanding notice having been given to the contrary.

March 10, 1838.

STATEMENT OF THE COMMON SCHOOL APPROPRIATION DUE FROM THE STATE TO THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF COLUMBIA CO.

DISTRICTS.	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	TOTAL.
Bloom.	paid	paid	paid	paid	293 28	293 28
Briar Creek,	86 61½	86 61½	220 12	789 17	220 12	1,362 64
Cattawissa,	141 92	141 92	343 35	780 48	323 35	1,711 02
Derry,	paid	paid	paid	paid	226 58	226 58
Fishing Creek,	31 60	31 60	83 51	291 83	83 51	522 05
Greenwood,	paid	paid	paid	paid	165 72	165 72
Hemlock,	paid	paid	paid	paid	211 76	211 76
Liberty,	paid	paid	paid	paid	173 50	173 50
Limestone,	paid	paid	paid	paid	78 32	78 32
Madison,	paid	paid	paid	paid	195 52	195 52
Mahoning,	paid	paid	paid	paid	238 25	238 25
Millin,	93 34½	93 34½	239 54	87 04	239 54	1502 31
Mount Pleasant,	paid	paid	paid	paid	95 17	95 17
Roaring Creek*	paid	paid	paid	728 45	208 46	1145 39
Sugarloaf,	paid	paid	paid	paid	99 70	99 70
					2752 78	

*Roaring Creek belonged to Cattawissa until 1832.

The foregoing statement exhibits not only the dividends of State appropriation for the fifth Common School year (1839) payable on or after the first Monday of June, 1838, when that year commences, to all the districts in the county, but also those for the 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th school years, (viz: 1835, 1836, 1837 and 1838,) now due to such districts as have either not accepted or not yet applied in the proper manner for their money. The whole amount of State appropriation yet due each district, since the first year of the system, is exhibited in the last column.

The State appropriation for 1835 or the first school year, was \$75,000; for 1836, or the second school year, \$700,000, (including the Building Fund of \$500,000); and for 1839; or the fifth year, it will be \$200,000 if the law remains unaltered, but if the Legislature add \$100,000 it will be \$300,000; making an aggregate given by the State since the commencement of the system of \$1,250,000 without, or \$1,350,000 with the expected increase.

Undrawn dividends of the two first year's appropriation are to be received from the county Treasury.

The dividend of subsequent years are payable by the State Treasurer, on application to the superintendent. The following is the form of the necessary certificate, which should be forwarded to the superintendent, in every case, as soon as the facts will justify it:

"\$ District Tax for 183. (Date.)
"To the Superintendent of Common Schools,
"Sir—I do hereby certify that a school tax amounting dollars cents, has been regularly levied and assessed, for the school year 183, upon district county; that a warrant for the collection thereof has been delivered to the district Collector according to law, and that the aforesaid sum is at least equal to this district's annual share of the State appropriation.
"I do further certify that of Post Office, county, is the lawfully appointed Treasurer of this District.
"Attest,
Secretary. President.

By the next mail after the receipt of the foregoing at this department, a warrant on the State Treasurer for the appropriation of the current year, will be sent to the District Treasurer, together with similar warrants for all undrawn dividends of former years remaining in the state treasury. To obtain the latter no additional tax is necessary, so that one tax for the current year, equal to the District's share of the ordinary annual state appropriation (\$200,000) will be sufficient to enable it to receive all dividends of former undrawn appropriations.

As soon as the District previously non-accepting, accepts the system and receives its money from the State Treasury, it is thereby entitled to all money remaining for its use in the County Treasury, provided it accepts before the 1st of November, 1838. In that case it is the duty of the County Treasurer to pay over such money forthwith to the District Treasurer, on the order of the Board of Directors. The best proof of such acceptance and the receipt of the money from the State Treasury, is the circular which accompanies the warrant of the Superintendent, on the production of which the County Treasurer will be perfectly safe in paying over the dividends in his hands.

Acceptance of the Common School System, under the present laws, can only take place by vote of a majority of such citizens of each non-accepting District, as assemble on the day of electing Directors, being in most cases the third Friday of March. The citizens then assembled have two acts to perform; 1st, to elect Directors, which must be done whether the system is to be put in operation or not; and 2d, to decide the question whether the system shall be accepted or not. This last question is only to be submitted in such Districts as previously rejected the system, but not in accepting districts, and may be decided in the affirmative by a mere majority of the votes polled.—See the 13th Section of the Common School Law of 1836.

Having thus explained the condition of the State appropriations, the manner of obtaining them; and the mode of accepting the system, the Superintendent would respectfully address a word of information and advice to the citizens of such townships, wards and boroughs as have not yet received it. In doing this he has no wish officially to become the advocate of the system, but solely promote the interests of those districts, by explaining their situation in relation to it.

By the first Common School Law (that of April 1st 1834), if any number Districts in a County—even one—accepted the system, they thereby became entitled to the receipt of the whole State appropriation intended for all the districts in the County for that year. This harsh provision was repealed by the supplement of April 15, 1835, which enacts that non-accepting districts should have two years, (which of course counted from the date of the supplement,) within which time they might accept and save forfeiture of the undrawn dividends. Before the passage of the supplement, however, the forfeiture contemplated by the act of 1834, had taken place in several counties, so far as related to the appropriation of the first school year (1835).

Thus the law remained till the passage of the common school law of June 13, 1836, the declaratory resolution of 27th May, 1837, "relative to undrawn balances in the School Fund." By the joint operation of these acts the period of forfeiture was further postponed till the 1st of November 1838, (next November) with this difference, that the forfeited dividends be distributed among the accepting districts of the same county, but are to be added to the principal of the general Common School Fund in the State Treasury, the interest of which only is annually distributable.

But though the law reads thus, the legal act of acceptance must be performed a considerable time before the 1st of November, 1838. Under the existing law non-accepting districts can only adopt the system, by the vote of the citizens assembled to elect Directors, which in most cases takes place on the third Friday in March. Hence it follows, that though the completion of the forfeiture does not take place till November, yet that the act of acceptance which can alone prevent it from attaching, must be performed for townships in March, and for wards and boroughs, at the time next spring when they elect their proper officers. Nor is the operation of this forfeiture confined to the operation of the current year, but embraces those of all the years since the commencement of the system. See the 1st and 13th sections.

This being the manner and effect of the forfeiture caused by continued rejection, it becomes proper to state the consequences of present adoption.

Acceptance of the system next spring will not fasten it on the district forever, but only till the spring of 1840, or for two years, at the end of which time it may be discontinued by the vote of a majority of all the qualified voters of the district, if the experiment should not prove satisfactory.—See sec. 13.

Present acceptance will prevent the forfeiture, not of one, but of four or five years' state appropriations, including that of next school year, amounting in the aggregate to about \$4 to each taxable inhabitant, or two thousand dollars in a district containing 500 taxables, without counting any thing on a probable increase of appropriation by the present Legislature.

Acceptance next spring, and the consequent receipt of the above accumulated dividends, will only burden each District next year, with a school tax equal to 64½ cents on each taxable. This tax, however, is not to be paid in that proportion by each taxable, in the manner of a poll tax, but will be assessed on the property, professions and persons that pay county rates, and on such personal property as paid state tax. The school tax on a township having 500 taxables, and receiving \$2,000 of state appropriations, would be something less than \$325.

But in reality, acceptance will not add much, if any thing, to the burden of taxation, in the populous counties. It is known that in many districts the tax collected by the Commissioners for the education of poor children, is equal to the sum which would be necessary to entitle those districts to the receipt of the Common School Funds, if they should adopt the system. Nor would it be necessary, in most cases, to levy a tax beyond the lowest amount necessary in order to secure the state aid, because their accumulated state appropriation of four or five years, will be sufficient to build or otherwise provide good school houses, thus leaving the current year's tax and appropriation wholly applicable to instruction, for which purpose it would be nearly sufficient.

If the system be adopted next spring, only one other tax, after that of next year, must necessarily be paid by the Districts; before they will have an opportunity of discontinuing the system at the triennial election on the 1st Tuesday of May, 1840. The payment of this tax, equal to 64½ cents for each taxable, will probably entitle them, beside relieving them from the poor school tax, to a state appropriation equal to \$1 for each taxable for the second year.—So that the payment of \$1 30 for each taxable in two years, will enable those districts to receive \$5 for each taxable, from the state, in the same time.

Hence it seems to be for the interest of the non-accepting districts, to take the matter seriously into deliberation, independent of all considerations arising from the merits or demerits of the Common School System.

Though the system is yet in its infancy, it has produced some decided and salutary changes in the districts which have adopted it.

The School Houses are generally much improved, being either new, or well repaired, and more equally and conveniently located than formerly.

The compensation of Teachers is increased fully one third, and the profession is rapidly and proportionately rising in usefulness and independence.

The number of Children taught in the Common Schools, is at least double that of the schools which preceded them in the same districts.

The duration of teaching in each year is about the same.

The kind of instruction is in all cases as good; and in most better than in the old schools.

The cost of teaching, notwithstanding the increased compensation of the teachers—the improved condition of the house, and the better order and kind of instruction, it is only one half of what it was before the system went into operation. Formerly it was \$2 25 on an average over the state, now it is \$1 12½ for each pupil per quarter.

In the old schools some paid for their own education, and some were educated at the expense of the county. This unpleasant distinction is not found in the Common Schools. All receive the same instruction, paid for out of the same common stock. There is no room, therefore, for partiality on the part of the teacher towards particular pupils, or of distinction among the scholars.

But it is not on account of these, its undeniable fruits, that the non-accepting districts are now addressed. These facts are alluded to merely to show that there is no danger to the experiment. The object of the Superintendent is to lay the whole matter before those districts, that they may act understandingly on the subject, when they make their final decision next spring.

As a friend, he would advise all to accept the system for the next two years, because at the end of that time it can be discontinued if found insufficient. In the mean time the accumulated funds of five years will be secured and can be applied to the permanent improvement of the school houses of the District, and to a fair trial of the Common School mode of teaching. At the end of that time, if the system be discontinued, each District will be in possession of good school houses, and of increased experience in the subject of instruction, which will be amply worth the small tax paid for them.

If the system be accepted by any of the districts in question, the Superintendent would advise that such citizens as have heretofore been opposed to it, but who are candid and intelligent men, shall be elected directors. They will have it in their power to keep down the amount of taxation, and to test the experiment in such a manner as to prevent any imputation of partiality for the system. Such men, also, representing the feelings of the majority of the district, will carry public confidence along with them, and the result whether for or against Common Schools, will be satisfactory to the district.

THO. H. BURROWS,
Superintendent of Common Schools.
SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Harrisburg, Jan. 13, 1838.

To Printers.

The Editors having issued proposals for the publication of a newspaper at another place, they now offer for sale the printing materials and subscription list of

"THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT."

To a young man with a limited capital this office offers considerable inducements, it having upwards of five hundred subscribers, and an advertising and job custom worth from \$800 to \$1000 per annum. The original cost of the establishment will be all that we shall require from the purchaser. Any inquiries by mail will be strictly attended to.

"The Columbia Democrat" is published at Bloomsburg, in the most central part of Columbia county, and acts with the dominant party both in political and sectional feelings.

Address,

INGRAM & MILLS,
Bloomsburg, Feb. 10, 1838.

TO OUR CUSTOMERS.

Those indebted to this establishment for subscriptions, jobs, or advertisements, are requested to make immediate payment, as in a short time our books will be placed in the hands of a magistrate to enforce collection. Those who do not pay within the year will be charged \$2 50 in conformity with our terms of publication. We hope that all may see the necessity of complying with this notice, as we must pursue this course in order to comply with our payable engagements.

JOHN S. INGRAM,
FRANKLIN S. MILLS.

February 10, 1838.

CHEESE!—CHEESE!!

1600 POUNDS of CHEESE just received from New York. It is a prime lot, and will be sold by wholesale or retail at the store of C. B. FISHER.

Bloomsburg, March 10, 1838.

Look at This!!

All persons indebted to the subscriber either by Note or Book Account, previous to this date, will oblige him by making payment before the first day of April next. After that date the collection of such demands will be attended with Costs. There will be no mistake in this notice.

C. B. FISHER.

Bloomsburg, March 10, 1838.

Pennsylvania Militia & Volunteers.—The Adjutant General has made his annual report, from which it appears that the number of Militia and Volunteers are:

Militia,	171,058
Cavalry,	4,699
Artillery,	2,942
Infantry,	14,913
Riflemen,	11,391

Total, 294,798